

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An image processing device comprising:
a plurality of image production processing
parts each of which generates drawing data for image
drawing processing from image drawing instructions
10 obtained through data compression;
a dividing part which divides the given image
drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image
drawing instructions without decompressing them in such
a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can
15 be processed by one of said plurality of image producing
processing part without referring to any other set of
image drawing instructions; and
a distributing part which distributes the
plurality of sets of image drawing instructions to said
20 plurality of image production processing parts.

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2. The image processing device as claimed in

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claim 1, wherein image data corresponding to the given
image drawing instructions to be processed here
comprises image data obtained through data compression
such that the resulting image data comprises a plurality
5 of data blocks and each data block can be decompressed
without referring to any other data block.

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3. The image processing device as claimed in
claim 2, wherein said dividing part divides given image
data by a border between data blocks.

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4. The image processing device as claimed in
claim 1, wherein image data corresponding to the given
20 image drawing instructions comprises image data obtained
through data compression by a fixed length compressing
method.

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5. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

- a) generating drawing data for image drawing processing from image drawing instructions obtained through data compression; and
- b) dividing the given image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed by said step a) without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions.

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- 6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein image data corresponding to the given image drawing instructions to be processed comprises image data obtained through data compression such that the resulting image data comprises a plurality of data blocks and each data block can be decompressed without referring to any other data block.

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7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step b) divides the given image data by a border between data blocks.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein image data corresponding to the given image drawing instructions comprises image data obtained through data compression by a fixed length compressing method.

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9. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a plurality of image production processing parts each of which generates drawing data for image drawing processing from image drawing instructions obtained through data compression;

a dividing part which divides the given image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed by any of said plurality of image producing

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processing part without referring to any other set of
image drawing instructions;

a distributing part which distributes the
plurality of sets of image drawing instructions to said
5 plurality of image production processing parts;

a drawing processing part which performs
drawing processing according to the drawing data given
by said plurality of image production processing parts,
and thus forms an image.

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